

**Amendment to the Abstract**

*Please replace the Abstract on page 18, with the following amended abstract:*

ABSTRACT:

2.9. This invention includes apparatus and methods for merging Merging of overlapping two-dimensional (2D) images ~~which that~~ are formed by a an image pick-up device as projections of a three-dimensional (3D) scene. ~~In particular, the merging~~ includes image registration by projective transformation of one of the 2D images. ~~the~~ The transformation ~~being is~~ derived from corresponding feature points found in both images. In order to achieve improved accuracy and stability, the coordinates of the corresponding feature points ~~are chosen or~~ are translated so that, on average, the numerical ranges of coordinate values are minimized. ~~Apparatus of the invention~~ An apparatus for performing the merging of overlapping 2D images includes an appropriately configured image processor or computer with an attached image acquisition device. ~~which in~~ In one embodiment, the apparatus is a diagnostic x-ray apparatus.

Figure 2